The Haliburton County ECHO

$2.00 incl. GST
Publications mail agreement # 40063862

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Total 20 pages

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County adopts clearer classification of 911 responses

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

The county's paramedic service is set to improve the means by which its ambulances are dispatched.

Haliburton County council heard during its Aug. 28 meeting that the Lindsay Central Ambulance Communication Centre is scheduled to implement the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) in March 2025.

That system is a universal standard for emergency dispatchers taking calls in response to medical emergencies.

The MPDS uses a set of standardized protocols to triage patients when a call is received to determine which 9-1-1 callers need help first. Ambulances are then dispatched based on the medical priority of response required.

"The advantage of this dispatch system is that it better prioritizes the patients," said Tim Waite, the county's chief paramedic. "The present system often over-prioritizes the patients."

Under the current dispatch categorization, a Code 4 "is every short of breath that's out there," he said. "And a Code 3 which might be a fractured ankle. Everything gets thrown into these two major emergency responses."

MPDS offers algorithms to assign different responses for higher acuity calls.

"The dispatching criteria has a lot of science behind it and a lot of data," Waite said.

For example, a cardiac arrest and someone who is described as drowsy presently elicit the same Code 4 response. The MPDS will provide a different response for those two calls.

"The questioning better identifies the true urgency of the patient, allowing the dispatcher to determine the level of response required," Waite wrote in a report to council.

MPDS utilizes a colour code system to identify the priority of the call.

Purple and Red requires immediate responses with ambulance lights and sirens.

Orange category indicates the patient can wait up to one hour. Patients can wait up to two hours for Yellow calls and up to four hours for Green calls.

"There could be several categories for any specific chief complaint," Waite said. "Take an abdominal pain, for example. If it's determined it's a leaking aortic aneurysm, it's going to be probably a Red response. But maybe it's an abdominal pain that leans more to something minor in nature."

MPDS establishes a matrix of greater than 2,000 incident types for each individual service operator. And the service operator establishes the type of response for each individual descriptor.

"The other piece to this is that us as the operator have input into the decisions into what ambulance will be sent," Waite said.

With the present system, the only choice would be closest response so even if the crew was close to end of shift they would still be sent. With the choice of best response and the descriptor as Orange, the patient can wait an hour then the crew approaching end of shift would not be dispatched to the call.

"We can also decide when (Fire Department personnel) needs to respond and when they don't," Waite said. "So it'll hopefully better utilize our Fire

see MPD page 2

Fishin' in the park

Edwin and his mom celebrate catching a plastic fish at the activities booths at the Haliburton and District Lions Stories in the Park Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton on Wednesday, Aug. 28. See more photos on page 4. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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County's paramedics maintain response times

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County's paramedic service meets or exceeds established response times.

As with the old chestnut that holds not to fix something that isn't broken, the Haliburton County Paramedic Service sees no reason to alter its 2024 response time plan for next year.

Response time has historically been used as a measurement for system effectiveness. The assumption was that faster is better. But there currently is research that has suggested response times have negligible impact on clinical outcomes outside a small subset of call types.

Paramedics also have a larger number of skills to provide the care required upon arriving at the patient's side.

The 2025 response plan is unchanged from this year and maintains response time expectations to those calls that evidence shows makes a difference while allowing us more time to respond to requests for service that are less time sensitive.

The service met all response time targets in 2023 as well.

"We will continue to monitor and report on our response times as part of our regular quality assurance and improvement process as well as maintain our present deployment plan," said Tim Waite, the county's chief paramedic.

The county is able to make adjustments to the Response Time Standard Plan at any time during the year. So if the plan is found to be inadequate, it can be adjusted accordingly, he said in a report to council during its Aug. 28 meeting.

We are meeting or exceeding our response time targets for 2024," Waite said.

The county's responders may fall below the target periodically in the case of sudden cardiac arrest and Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) 1 patients.

"However, historically at year end, we have met our target of arriving at sudden cardiac arrest patients within six minutes 20 per cent of the time and CTAS 1 patients within eight minutes 30 per cent of the time," he said.

In the case of CTAS 2 patients, response is inside 15 minutes 65 per cent of the time.

Paramedics respond according to set time targets for CTAS 3 patients 65 per cent of the time within 20 minutes.

Haliburton County's medical first responders got to CTAS 4 and CTAS 5 patients 65 per cent of the time within 25 minutes and 30 minutes respectively.

The triage acuity levels correspond to severity of the patient's condition. Level 1 is the most dire as conditions are threats to life and limb and in imminent risk of worsening.

CTAS Level 5 patients are non-urgent and the conditions may be a symptom of a chronic problem with or without concern of deterioration.

The provincial Ministry of Health sets the time requirement for responding to sudden cardiac arrest at six minutes and the service provider establishes the percentage of time that they will endeavor to achieve that goal.

The province also sets the time requirement for CTAS 1 patients at eight minutes and the service provider establishes the percent of time that they will endeavor to achieve that goal.

For CTAS 2, 3, 4, and 5, the service provider establishes both response time and the percentage of time that they will endeavor to achieve those goals.

The county is required to report the percentage of time that an ambulance crew has arrived on-scene to provide ambulance services to sudden cardiac arrest patients or other patients categorized as CTAS 1 within eight minutes from time of crew notified.

The county is also required to report on the percentage of times that an ambulance crew has arrived on-scene to provide ambulance services to patients categorized as CTAS 2, 3, 4, and 5 within the response time targets set by the upper-tier municipality or delivery agent.

Dysart will take over all of Trapper's Trail Road

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Some Miskwabi Lake property owners want Dysart to assume ownership of a piece of Trapper's Trail Road.

Trapper's Trail Road is a 13-kilometre thoroughfare that wraps around Miskwabi Lake. Property owners on the lake's south side want the municipality to assume ownership of the 800 metres of road at its end.

"The road is in very good condition," said Elizabeth Cloutier, a resident on the road.

She told Dysart council when it met Aug. 27 that residents have spent a lot of money to maintain the road.

"Not just to maintain it, but to continue to strive towards municipal standards," she said. "Miraculously, it did not have any damage requiring repairs or maintenance from the deluges of rain that we had in the county this year and that we've had in prior years."

The road is owned by the municipality, except for the last 800 metres.

That portion serves 19 properties on the south side of the lake, one block that's commonly known as Lot 50 in Plan 636, and three other properties on the lake's south side and outside Plan 636.

The road also serves the general public, all-terrain vehicle riders, and hunters.

The Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA) is required to take responsibility for the road's maintenance and repair, fee collection, and to get insurance for the unassumed roadway which also covers Dysart

Aside from responsibility for regular road maintenance, area property owners have spent another $30,000 since 2011 to bring the road up to municipal standards.

The 19 property owners on the south side of the road are obligated through Development Plan 636 to pay for the total maintenance and repair costs, and the insurance and annual association fees.

MACA is tasked with lake stewardship, community wellness, and to monitor lake health, Cloutier said.

"It's a big job," she said. "They manage four lakes in the area. They are finding it increasingly difficult to find the volunteer time required to execute their responsibilities."

There's no way for the property owners responsible for maintenance because the end of the road is in municipality's inventory of roads.

Cloutier said properties are being developed on the north side of the lake that are outside Development Plan 636 and the association cost-sharing terms.

"As a result of all these things happening over time, there's increasing conflicts with the cottage association, with the property owners on both the north side and the south side," she said.

MACA is a cottage association as opposed to a roads association.

"It has a different focus, but it's now in the position where it needs to pick up the obligation for the road," she said. "And it's not within their bandwidth so we're having a lot of problems there."

The association asked the township to take over the last 800 metres of the road on the condition that the road owners bring the road up to municipal standards.

"The property owners know this is going to be a costly venture," Cloutier said. "They have no problem with that. They are in for whatever is required."

"I think that's always been the intent here," Mayor Murray Fearrey said. "If you get it to a standard, we'll assume it. I don't think there'd be a question about that."

Cloutier asked if the township would help MACA access any available infrastructure funding to go towards improving the road.

"If there ever is any available," Fearrey said.

"I know it's a fairly stretched budget on that case," she said. "I understand that."

Cloutier said it's hoped the work could be undertaken after Thanksgiving weekend when cottagers leave for the winter.

"We'd assume the road," Fearrey said. "That's not a big deal, but you've got to bring it up to standard."

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MPD systems used throughout province

from page 1

Departments only when they're really required."

The MPDS dispatch classification is used basically throughout the province.

Stomach pain could be incredibly bad indigestion or it could be an appendix rupturing and about to spill infection throughout the patient's abdomen to result in possibly fatal peritonitis.

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor in Highlands East, wondered how a medically unqualified patient could convey severity of ailment and emergency response.

"How are we going to be able to differentiate between those two?" Ryall said. "I can't see a burst appendix being in the same category as a simple stomach cramp."

"And they probably wouldn't be, depending on the question (asked of the 911 caller)," Waite said. "The decision is made by the dispatch and, as I said, this has been in place since the late '70s so there's a lot of science behind the questions that are asked to further wind down to the severity of that particular abdominal pain."

VDO tournament named in memory of Lisa Kerr

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

The winning team of the Lisa Kerr Memorial Golf Tournament scored 19 under par. /Photos submitted

The Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO) Charity Golf Tournament, in the name of Lisa Kerr, raised just over $70,000 to cover operating costs to provide necessary dental care to those in need in Haliburton County.

One hundred and forty four golfers participated at Blairhampton Golf Club on Thursday, Aug. 22.

"The day went perfectly," said Loretta Kerr D'Ambrosio, VDO volunteer. "We had beautiful weather, the tournament was sponsored by many generous donors, and the silent auction was successful."

Kerr D'Ambrosio said the annual tournament has been the charity's biggest fundraiser of the year for 14 years.

Her mother, Lisa, played a pivotal role each year in its success.

It was named The Lisa Kerr Memorial Golf Tournament last year after she passed away from cancer.

"Lisa Kerr was one of the founders of this charity back in 2011. Lisa spent countless hours ensuring the operation of the clinic ran smoothly," said a 2024 VDO update.

Since its opening, VDO has completed $4,475,053 worth of dentistry free of charge to patients in need, helping 1,281 patients in Haliburton County.

The charity also travels to a small village in Honduras each year to volunteer their dental services.

This year, the tournament boasted a putting green, closest to the pin, longest drive, closest to the keg, and a hole-in-one challenge.

The winning team scored 19 under par.

Teams enjoyed lunch following the 18 hole game and had a chance to check out the auction table.

VDO said they wouldn't be able to provide necessary care in the community without participants, donors, sponsors, and volunteers.

"Our dental team sees new patients every week, and we continue to hear testimonials from those who have nowhere else to turn to receive care."

One patient said VDO restored their confidence.

"Every one of you showed a human trait that is not readily available in the world these days. Thank you for the compassion, concern, and much needed help."

Being the recipients of the Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign this year, the $10,000 raised allowed them to purchase new X-ray technology.

"We still see major gaps in access to dental care in our community. In a perfect world, one day, VDO will be able to wind down because the 1,200 patients who have benefitted from the charity will be able to receive care at traditional clinics," said the 2024 update.

Next year, the tournament will take place on Aug. 21.

For more information about VDO, visit www.dental-outreach.com.

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Sharing stories

Lions club members Betty Mills and Ann McIvor give away free books to children who attended the Haliburton and District Lions Stories in the Park Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 29. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Lucy smiles while completing a colouring page at the SIRCH booth.

Lion David Mills helps Alex with his putting.

Sisters Jordyn and Kaiya make crafts at the Haliburton Highlands Museum booth at the Stories in the Park Fair.

Dahlia plays at the SIRCH CACP/CPNP booth.

Gord Kidd and Friends perform for the crowd during the fair.

Rotary memorializes community members

The Rotary Club of Haliburton installed plaques dedicated to community members on two of their donated benches on Haliburton Highlands Land Trust properties, one in Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, and one in Dahl Forest, on Monday, Aug. 26. In Dahl Forest, a plaque with Peggy Dahl's name was installed on the bench. Dahl's daughter, Nana McKernan, is pictured with Rotarian Mike Landry. "It was really special to be present at the plaque installation. My mother would've loved that this property that we grew up on now nurtures educating others about nature," said McKernan. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

The bench located at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve was dedicated to Leopoldina Dobrzensky. Her daughter, Margaret Dobrzensky, is pictured with family friends Sharon and Paul Morrisette. "It was a very special day for me and my family to have this plaque installed and to share it with great friends of ours," said Margaret. "I'm very appreciative of the Haliburton Rotary Club and the Land Trust for making this happen."

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points of view

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Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2018

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So long, farewell

vivian collings

Editorial

IF YOU'VE heard hums around town, you may already know the words to follow.

This is my final editorial as editor of the *Haliburton Echo* and *County Life*.

I'm off on a new adventure, pursuing a career in design and utilizing my post-secondary education.

Bittersweet is a word that feels like an overused cliche.

Regardless, I can't find a better one to describe how this feels.

I'm excited for new experiences and to get back to what I've loved most since kindergarten; being visually creative.

But that doesn't make it easy to leave.

My life for the past two and a half years has been centred around this community.

I've expressed my thoughts and opinions in about 130 editorials, taken thousands of photos, and written hundreds of your stories.

Another cliche: Time flies when you're having fun.

The past 130 weeks have challenged me more than anything else in my life this far.

Although the paper is of course its own business, it always felt like I worked for the community.

And how many jobs can you say that of?

I truly felt like I worked for the betterment of all of us, learning the origins of new businesses, sharing good news, and celebrating successes, while also uncovering the darker corners of the county and ways we can change for the better.

I've laughed with many of you and cried with a few, too.

It was always more than just a job.

Not a day went by where I didn't think about the next paper to come out in one to seven days depending on the time of week, whether it was a "day off" or not.

But I can't lie, I liked it that way.

I said in one of my earliest editorials that it felt like working on a big group project.

Instead of presenting to the class, we presented it to the whole community, every single week.

It's both terrifying and exhilarating.

Short deadlines meant there was no room for second guesses or obsession over this or that.

You do the best you can with what you have.

And that goes for every part of life.

To all the readers, thank you from the bottom of my heart for reading the words written on these pages.

Thank you for sending your words of encouragement or criticism, because both are equally as important.

Thank you to all the amazing community members I met along the way.

Thank you for always welcoming me with handshakes and smiles at each event.

The best part of my week was always, *always*, getting to leave the computer desk and check out your hard work.

And lastly, thank you to my incredible co-workers for the past nearly three years.

Your support and trust in me was unmatched, and like Dorothy says, I will miss you most of all.

You're the reason why this paper is still going strong after ink marked the pages of the first *Echo* 140 years ago.

And with that, I only have a few words of space left here.

Luckily I'm not going far, and my life still will be centred around the community.

I plan to keep my home in the Highlands for a long time to come.

I'm sure I'll see you around soon.

All the best,

Vivian

The love that is here

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

I HAVE OFTEN heard people say, "People who work in long term care are angels."

I personally think they are kind people who embrace all of life. They understand that aging is a natural part of life.

They believe that everyone matters and deserves the best care possible. And yes, they are angels.

My dad, John, moved into Highland Wood a couple of weeks ago. It was a challenging couple of weeks as my dad got weaker, and it became clear we couldn't care for him anymore.

And at the same time we were unsure about what the best next steps were.

And then we got a call saying he was being offered a bed and we had a couple of days to make the decision and move.

As hard as it was caring for him, it was harder to think about moving him. He was determined to stay home.

All any family wants is the best care and kindness for their loved ones. And so he moved.

A week into his stay he boarded the wheel chair accessible van and went on a group excursion to Music in the Park. Gord Kidd and friends were playing.

Gord has been performing as a volunteer for many years at Highland Wood. My sister, mom and I went to the park to sit with my dad and the other residents.

It was a beautiful summer evening. The sun was warm and shining. The sky was clear. There was a good crowd.

Gord and friends began to sing, and I noticed one of the residents singing along to every song. At one point he got up to video the performance and ended up on the stage with Gord.

Gord welcomed him and encouraged him to sing with him. Another resident was celebrating his birthday, and Gord had the audience sing Happy Birthday to him.

Gord acknowledged that the birthday man had performed with him 35 years prior. The show carried on.

There were women line dancing in front of the stage. Children were doing cartwheels and somersaults.

My dad sat beside my mom and tapped his fingers on his chair. One of the nurses or PSWs brought him a drink when he got thirsty.

I watched as the HW staff chatted and danced with the residents. The whole scene warmed my heart.

How beautiful is a community that gathers by the lake to listen to music. People of all ages from the very young to the very old are welcome.

The beauty that everyone is sitting in is spectacular. You honestly couldn't ask for more.

Tara Brach, a meditation teacher I follow, always encourages people to pay attention "to love that is here right now."

As caregivers we are often dealing with difficult decisions or responsibilities. It can be very hard at times.

And sometimes all we can do is stop and feel the love. That night in the park I could feel the warm sun, see the calm lake, observe the HW staff singing and dancing with the people they were serving.

Gord was singing. Children were laughing. Love was all around.

Thanks Rotary Club of Haliburton for creating such a welcoming experience for all.

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points of view

Legends of the fall

steve galea

Loon Tales

I WAS ON-LINE this morning when I read a headline that I found a little bit alarming. It said, "The fall forecast is in, and there's going to be some bad news for fall lovers."

"Oh no," I thought. "This is horrible."

I immediately began feeling bad for Jenn. Because, trust me, no one enjoys seeing a good fall more than her. It doesn't matter if the fall is a stumble, an unrecoverable trip, an icy slip, a face plant, a stair misstep, a shoelace mishap, or unexpected loss of balance. Jenn loves them all.

It's her guilty pleasure – and probably the main thing that attracted her to me.

Of course, this is not something she is proud of. I mean, the fact that she is attracted to me. As for the other part, about her appreciation of a good fall, she just keeps that to herself. She knows it's not right.

Having said that, she is very particular about the kind of falls she appreciates. For one thing, they have to be real and not planned pratfalls. For another, the fall cannot result in serious injury unless that injury is to a person's dignity. Those, to her, are the best—the ones where you get up and immediately look around to see if anyone was watching.

I didn't know about this when we first met. But one day, months into our relationship, I walked into the room to see Jenn doubled over in laughter as she looked at her phone screen.

When I asked what she was watching, she got sheepish. The good news was that she wasn't rewatching that video of me trying to dunk a basketball. Instead, she was viewing something far less clumsy – a video montage of people slipping on a patch of ice. To her, there's nothing funnier.

So now, here I was about to break the news to her that the fall forecast is in, and there's going to be some bad news for fall lovers.

Which made me wonder, when did they start forecasting falls? And how do they do it? I'm guessing that forecasters have been standing on street corners and in malls checking for untied shoelaces – and finding less that normal. Perhaps, because people are aware that its better to spend less time watching their phone screen, they have reduced their risk of tripping too. But mostly, I'm speculating, it is because this is going to be a mild autumn, and that means almost no chance of ice patches. And, who knows? Maybe people have just gotten a little less clumsy this year. It happens.

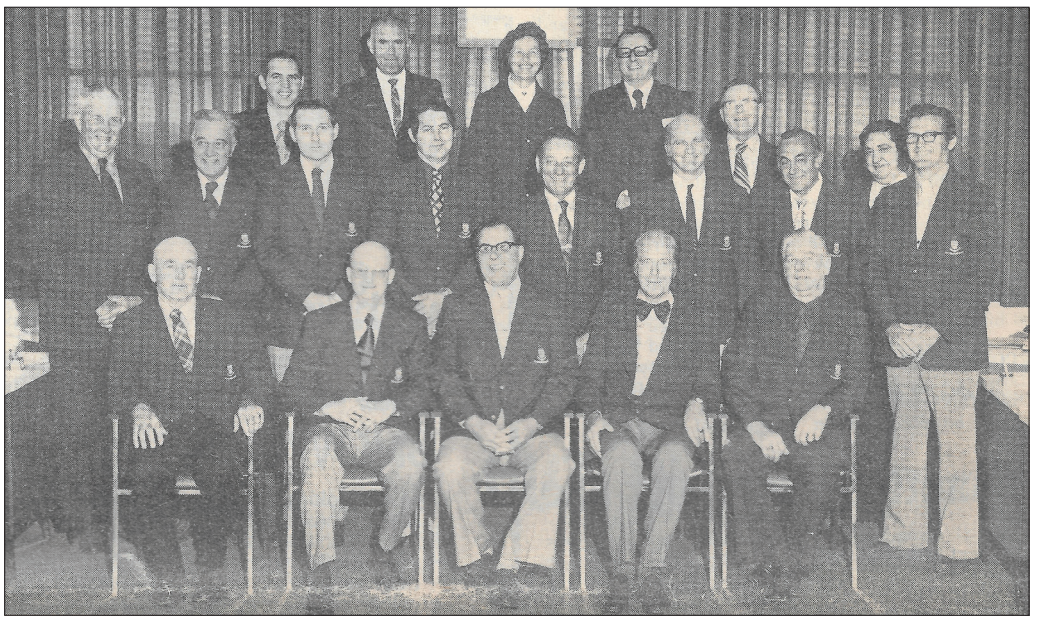
In any case, it is people like Jenn – the ones who truly love a good fall – who will suffer most. Which is a shame because she really does laugh a lot when she sees one.

If this continues, I'm probably going to have to take her to visit a daycare or some other place where babies are just learning to walk. Or I might have to suggest a date to an ice rink on nights where people are being taught to skate.

But, frankly, both of those things are not the same. The falls are not all that unexpected.

The truly bad part is that I have come to really enjoy watching Jenn try to hide her laughter when she witnesses a good fall.

The only thing I can hope for is that this forecast only applies in Ontario. If so, there's still plenty of time to organize a really good trip.



pic *of the* past

This week's Pic of the Past comes from the pages of a past Echo - the Nov. 29, 1973 edition. The caption reads: "Pictured above are members of the County Council of the Provisional County of Haliburton. They were all present at the Warden's Banquet held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Haliburton on Friday night. Front row, left to right: Malcolm MacGillvray, Robert Fotheringham, Warden, Reg Booth, Roy Brohm, Art Locke. Second row, left to right: Bob Vick, Lloyd Walker, Murray Fearrey, Gareth Kellett, Sinc Nesbitt, Bob Beeney, Doug Pritchard, Gary Agnew, Keith Tallman. Third row, left to right: Jim Harrison, Jack Cox, Wynne Lahay, Jerry Howarth.

letters to the editor

History of the Tonkin Dupont Mill

To the Editor,

Re: Pic of the Past, Aug. 13, 2024

I was delighted to see the picture of the Tonkin Dupont Mill in Wilberforce.

The site was first owned by the Tonkin Dupont Graphite Company who owned it up until the First World War.

Graphite was found on the site, and when the find gave out, they used it to process the ore from local mines. Everything was shipped there for processing.

Tonkin then sold the site to the Diamond Virginia Graphite Company who dismantled the buildings, except the office, and moved back to Virginia, USA.

My Grandfather, Frank Schofield, was hired as caretaker.

Frank's Father, William of London, England, died in 1930, and Frank used his inheritance to purchase the property and moved his family into the office.

I currently own this property, which is across the river from the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company location.

Mrs. Connie Lyon (Schofield)
Wilberforce

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

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Despite warden's unease, county sets course toward strategic plan

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

A finely tuned implementation process is crucial in order to achieve the optimal strategic plan for the county.

And if that is in fact the case, Haliburton County council got a look at the nuts and bolts during the Aug. 28 meeting of a plan to write the county's first strategic plan.

The county is currently without a strategic plan. The creation of one has been discussed for a number of years and it's proposed that a five-year plan be adopted by May 2025.

Such plans are meant to guide staff and councillors and is a tool to inform taxpayers about the direction in which the county is being steered. They outline objectives, strategic actions, and the outcomes hoped to be achieved.

County council issued a request for proposals from consultants to help develop the first strategic plan. It decided in June to cancel the request and staff were instead directed to helm the project.

And that's something Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she's dead set against.

"I have to completely disagree with us going in this direction," she said. "I think I made myself clear when we made the decision that staff should be working omnthis.

"I think this is an additional burden on staff. They've all got full-time jobs and this is added to their jobs substantially."

Despite that, the Strategic Plan Working Group was formed.

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO and the project's manager, said measures were taken to accommodate staff with the extra workload.

"We have identified that within the schedule," he said. "If you notice in the schedule there's actually about a month-long break in December-January. That's to accommodate staff's involvement in the budget approval process."

He said the mechanics such as timelines and subject matter have been established for the process.

"This strategic plan will establish the county's vision, mission, goals, and objectives and outline the strategies and actions necessary to achieve them," Dyke said in a report to council.

Sue Tiffin and Elizabeth Purcell are co-leads on the strategic plan project.

"Accordingly, the Haliburton Strategic Plan will consist of overarching priorities, corresponding actionable items, and the measurable indicators of success," Purcell said. "And (it) will be both an internal-focused and external-focused document."

Tiffin said research and consultation with community stakeholders will take place until October, after which a summary report of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges will be available.

Danielsen said strategic planning is a process that should be, to at least some extent, be done by somebody outside staff ranks. And that holds especially true when it comes to the consultation phase.

"I think sometimes it's better to have an independent person doing the consultation as opposed to staffers talking to people and the public or organizations who may already have preconceived notions about what the county should and shouldn't be doing," Danielsen said.

The strategic plan itself will be finalized between October until May for council's consideration.

"A detailed and meaningful implementation plan is imperative for the success of the strategic plan," Purcell said, and added that performance metrics and how to monitor that will be imbedded in the plan.

Councillor Lisa Schell, Minden Hills' deputy mayor, said she didn't think a consultant from outside county staff would have been able to compile a process report as detailed.

"These people (staff members) know us," she said.

"I don't think a consultant is going to bring things home like you people are," Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said to Tiffin and Purcell.

Coun. Bob Carter, Minden Hills' mayor, said an outside party wouldn't have been able to provide such a detailed report.

He suggested there needs to be specifics when stakeholder consultation is mentioned.

"We talk about residents, (are we) talking about permanent and seasonal?" he said. "Because the seasonal residents may have a large chunk of what happens here in Haliburton County."

Carter also warned that four weeks to adequately consult the public may not be enough time.

"I applaud your optimism," he said. "But organizing these various focus groups and all the other things that you're doing, I think that is probably a little but short. You should give yourself a little bit of room."

"The four weeks was for the community survey," Dyke said. "The actual information gathering and dealing with stakeholders is eight weeks, but your point is well-taken. We'll take a look at that again and we may have to modify it."

"The only concern I have is when you start saying you're going to interview each councillor and stuff, is there a way to do a questionnaire or something?" Fearrey said. "There's a lot of them and it takes a lot of time."

Street fest celebrations

The Minden Pride Rainbow Street Festival ended off Pride Week on August 25. Water Street in Minden was shut down for vendors and entertainers to fill the street with handmade goods, food, and activities. Festival-goers were treated to watching the Floating River Parade down the Gull River. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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CANADIAN TIRE MINDEN
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Approximately 170 motorcycle riders arrived in Minden on Friday to rest and gas up for the Canada 911 Ontario Ride.

Canada 911 Ride rumbles through Minden

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

On Friday, Aug. 23 the Canada 911 Ontario Ride thundered through the streets of Minden. The Canada 911 Ride began in 2006 with one simple mission; to honour fallen emergency responders including police, fire, and EMS. Automated External Defibrillators are placed in the name of these fallen heroes. "Thus reintegrating their live-saving legacy into the community," says the Canada 911 Ride website.

Since its inception the Canada 911 Ride has presented over $1,000,000 to support Families of Fallen Emergency Service Workers, Victims of Crime, and the Mikey Network.

There were 170 riders present at the Petro-Canada in Minden on Friday. The Pioneer was shut down to exclusively serve the Canada 911 riders. Owner Tanveer Muneer supported the riders with snacks. Volunteers assisted with filling the riders' tanks. Riders also had lunch at the Tim Hortons next door.

The Canada 911 Ontario Ride takes place on Aug. 24 and 25. There is an extra optional riding day on Aug. 23 called Honger's Rolling Thunder. Honger's Rolling Thunder pays tribute to Andrew Hong, a Toronto police officer and escort to the Canada 911 Ride who lost his life on Sept. 12, 2022.

Huskies versus Muskies

The Haliburton County Huskies are finishing up the summer with some pre-season games to prepare for another year of OJHL hockey. They played against the Lindsay Muskies on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden and won 7-4. Huskies goals were scored by Noah Lodoen, Nathan Poole, Alex Bradshaw, Ethan Wright, Adam Smeeton, and Ty Petrou. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Green Burial Society seeks donations for gazebo

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society's (HHGBS) 'Welcoming Gazebo' has been completed. With the help of sixteen students enrolled in the Timber Framing course at the Haliburton School of Art and Design that took place from July 22 to 27, the gazebo has been erected at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Algonquin Highlands. Glen Diezel, of Diezel Woodworking, instructed the students.

The purpose of the 'Welcoming Gazebo' is to provide a covered space for families for rest and contemplation. Attendees of green burials can use the space while their loved ones are interred. Educational signage on the ecological benefits of green burials is present within the gazebo.

The policies regarding a year round available green burial section in the St. Stephen's Cemetery on Buckslide Road in Algonquin Highlands has been finalized. Implementation needs approval by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario before Algonquin Highlands may sell green burial plots. The HHGBS expects that this will be approved by the spring of 2025.

The right to be buried in the green burial section at St. Stephen's will be a general right. There are 10 sections with 18 plots available each. People will not have the right to be buried in a specific predetermined plot. Plots will be assigned on an as-needed basis. This process allows the green burial section to be planted with native vegetation and allow the process of renaturalization.

This will be the first cemetery within the county to allow winter green burials. A fee will be charged when burial is required during the winter. A set fee has not been determined and will be set at a full cost recovery basis. Four communal memorialization stones will be erected throughout the site showing the interred people's names, dates of birth and dates of death.

In the Fall 2022 edition of Forever Green, HHGBS estimates that conventional burials cost between $4,500 and $18,000, cremations cost around $2,700 to $8,000 and green burials cost from $2,200 to $5,000.

While Algonquin Highlands is currently the only municipality in Haliburton County to offer green burials, there are a number of ways for people to reduce their environmental impact with their funeral service. Embalming and concrete vaults are not mandatory in many cemeteries. Biodegradable caskets are encouraged whenever possible.

The HHGBS encourages everyone to think about how they would like their remains to be treated after they pass away. It is very important to have a plan detailing your wishes to ensure that you are treated how you want it to be treated and eliminate confusion and difficult decisions for your loved ones, writes their newsletter.

The HHGBS is a registered charity. Their goal is to restore, protect, and restore the environment. They are an educational and environmental advocacy group seeking to revolutionize the funeral industry and how we think of burials. The HHGBS is seeking an additional $6,000 before the end of this year. The total cost associated with the gazebo project is $23,000. The Township of Algonquin Highlands has committed $10,000 and the HHGBS has already raised $7,000 towards their goal. For anyone interested in supporting this cause, a tax deductible donation may be sent to the HHGBS. You can support them through Canada Helps, e-transfer to hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com, or by cheque. a

Summertime blues

The Patrick Monaghan Memorial Blues Festival, named after the late Buckslide Blues Society member and CanoeFM Buckslide Blues Cruise radio host, took place at Haliburton Forest on Friday, Aug. 23 and Saturday, Aug. 24. The festival featured ten different blues bands and is an annual Highlands Buckslide Blues Society event. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

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TLDSB starting year with phones 'off and away'

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

A new school year starts today, and Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) students are starting it phone-free.

The policy was created in April by the Ontario Government with an implementation date of September 2024 for each school board to enforce restrictions with a local policy.

TLDSB is opting for an "off and away" rule in an attempt to avoid distraction while teaching and learning.

"TLDSB students will be turning their devices off or setting them to silent, and putting them away to limit distractions and promote healthy relationships and meaningful engagement in the classroom. This will be a new approach for many, but a practice some students are already accustomed to," said a TLDSB press release.

The board said they have ensured guardians and students are well aware of the new policy by sharing updates since April.

"The research tells us that excessive personal mobile device use limits attention, learning, relationships, and belonging in schools," said associate superintendent of learning responsible for Mental Health Services and Safe Schools, Tanya Fraser. "Restrictions on personal mobile devices will help students to fully participate and embrace the opportunities in their classroom. We believe that upholding 'off and away' is necessary for a healthy and engaged school year."

The rule isn't just for students, but the entire school community, they said.

It includes cell phones, tablets, and smart watches.

"There are exceptions, which include when devices are required for health and medical purposes as documented in medical plans of care, to support special education needs in individual education plans, or if directed by an educator."

TLDSB says this change should have a positive impact on student learning and mental health.

"When devices are off and away, the school day will consist of more meaningful interactions with peers and staff."

Cell phones and mental health

The National Library of Medicine conducted an observational study that shows spending over a couple of hours a week using electronic media correlated negatively with self-reported happiness like self esteem.

"Time spent on non-screen activities correlated positively with psychological well-being in adolescents," the study said. "Youth do increasingly interact online rather than in person, and smartphones can interfere even with face-to-face interactions."

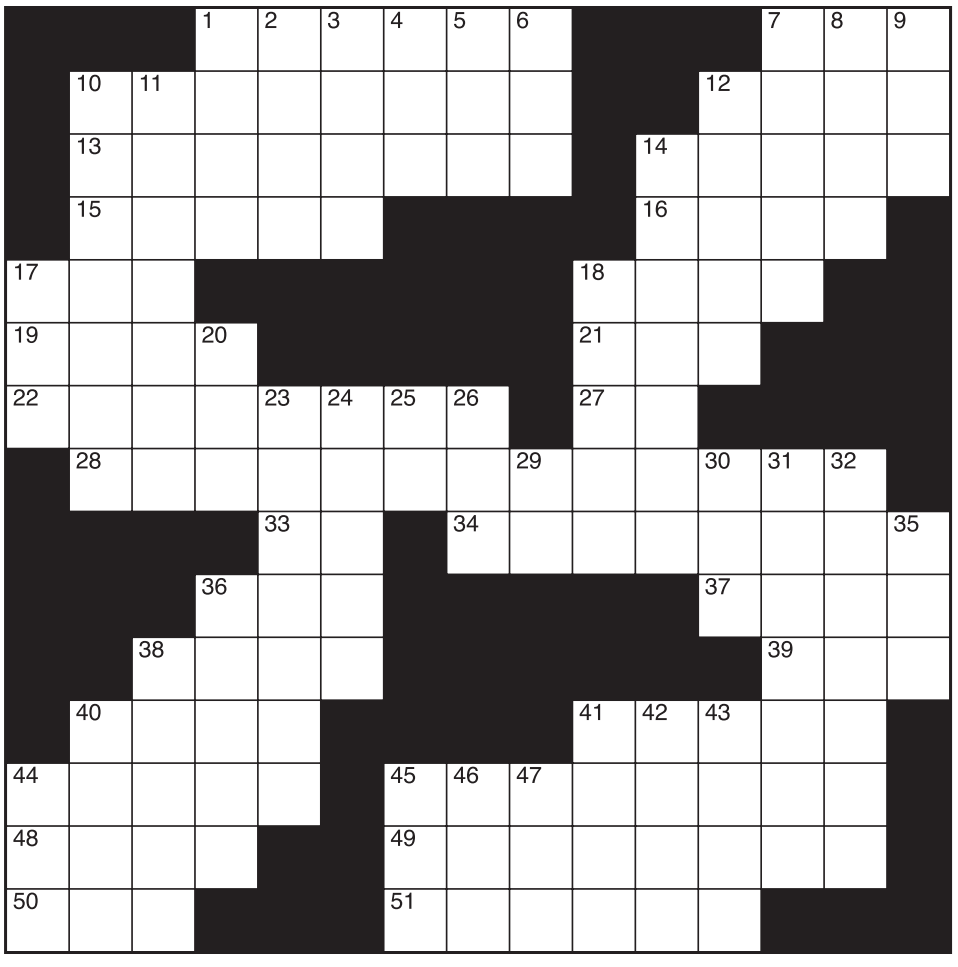
Those who used their phones more often reported feeling more distracted and less present when social interactions did occur.

For more information on the new policy, view the frequently asked questions section within the Personal Mobile Devices tab in the 2024-2025 TLDSB Handbook for Parents/Guardians and Students.

> ***"Restricitions on personal mobile devices will help students to fully participate and embrace the opportunities in their classroom."***
>
> — Tanya Fraser

We are the champions

The Haliburton Highlands Women's Golf League held their two-day championship tournament at Blairhampton and Pinestone and the winners are from the left Linda Boshan (Flight C), Kim Henrick (Flight A and overall winner), Cheryl Howe (Flight B) and Janet Wylie (Flight D). /Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Current unit
7. Reciprocal of an ohm
10. God of the sea
12. A way to disfigure
13. Positioned
14. Tall tropical American tree
15. Large deciduous trees
16. __ and ends
17. Part of a machine
18. Brews
19. One who leads prayers in a mosque
21. Indian state
22. Partisans
27. Top lawyer in the land
28. Former Dodgers MVP
33. Title for women
34. Heated and allowed to slowly cool
36. Copycat
37. Sounds
38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba
39. Part of (abbr.)
40. Hateful
41. Collide
44. European football heavyweight
45. One who works for you
48. Song
49. Ancient marvels
50. Bridge building degree
51. Delivery boys

CLUES DOWN
1. Continent
2. Submissive
3. There's a lot in a bowling alley
4. Sun up in New York
5. Court decision __ v. Wade
6. Finish line
7. Young women
8. Hives of activity
9. Hyman Roth's right-hand man Johnny
10. Eastern U.S. river
11. Popular cooking ingredient
12. Greek mythological princess
14. Scent for men
17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
18. Once more
20. Irate
23. Triangular spaces above a door
24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik
25. Atomic #58
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Natural logarithm
30. Talk incessantly
31. Went by
32. Strives
35. Fall back
36. Manila hemp
38. Not easily explained
40. Former "Double Dare" host Summers
41. Mollusk
42. Capital of Togo
43. Letter of Semitic scripts
44. Founder of Babism
45. Indicates near
46. Family of regulator genes
47. Indicates before

Answers on page 15

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Children's Grassroots Soccer

We just concluded our ninth and final week of Grassroots Soccer, capping off an incredible season with yet another group of stellar players and picture-perfect weather. Remarkably, we didn't face a single rainout all summer, allowing every scheduled session to proceed as planned. This uninterrupted run has given our young athletes the chance to fully immerse themselves in team play and face a variety of challenges, leading to significant skill development over the course of the season.

Throughout the summer, it's been inspiring to watch these kids grow both individually and as a team. Week after week, they've honed their abilities, showing increased confidence, sharper techniques, and a deeper understanding of the game. The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by the players have been truly exceptional, making this season one of the most successful yet.

As we look ahead, we're already excited about the possibilities for next season. With the program's continued growth, we anticipate welcoming even more players and embracing new challenges that will push these young athletes to reach even greater heights. Each season brings fresh opportunities for learning, competition, and camaraderie, and we're eager to see what the future holds.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our incredible coaches and parents. Their commitment, time, and energy have been instrumental in making this program a success. From organizing practices and games to offering encouragement and guidance, they've been the backbone of our community, ensuring that every player had the best experience possible. We are deeply grateful for their efforts and look forward to continuing this journey together in the seasons to come.

Submitted by Andrew Brown

Audrey Appleton – Mixed Yellow 4-6

Carter Ouellette – Girls Black 10-13 - Outstanding defensive play most games but tonight she played exceptionally well and was chosen by her teammates as MVP. Great game Carter!

Kane Hancock and Griffin Hunt – Boys Jade 7-9

Noah Berry and Cole Bradley - Mixed Royal Blue 4-6

Kipp Kelly – Boys Silver 10-13 – Amazing growth in playing positions and working with the entire team. Excellent game, Kipp!

Boys White 10-13

Girls 10-13

Boys Royal Blue 7-9

Girls Black 10-13

Girls Red 10-13

Boys Silver 10-13

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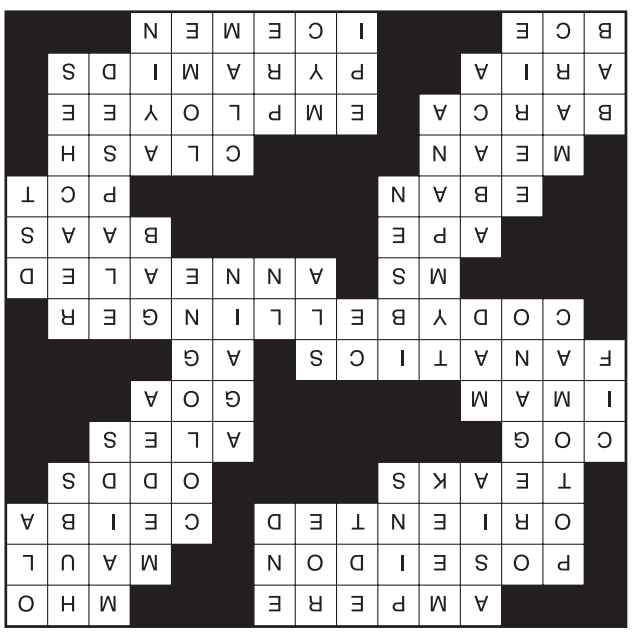

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF
DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
- **TIME:** 9:05 AM
- **LOCATION:** TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE 135 MAPLE AVENUE, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO AND IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT USING ZOOM

Application:
Lands of Brum and Churilov
(File Nos.: D14-ZB-2024-001)

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amending By-law would change the zoning from Rural Type 1 (RU1) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone to Rural Type 1 (RU1) zone, Rural Type 2 (RU2) zone, Rural Type 2-XX (RU2-XX) exception zone and Environmental Protection (EP). More specifically, the purpose of the Zoning Amendment Application is to:

- Rezone the proposed severed lots for Residential use;
- Recognized the minimum lot frontage;
- Further delineate the Environmental Protection (EP) zone and implement buffer areas to the Environmental Protection (EP) zone as defined by the supporting Environmental Impact Study.

The subject property is a condition of concurrent application H-032-24 application for severance

Location: 1273 Dignan Road, and legally described as Part Lots 14 and 15, Concessions 3 and 4, in the Geographic Township of Harburn, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 3rd day of September 2024.
Kris Orsan, CPT
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626 or by e-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

580 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Simmons family would like to invite you to join us in celebrating

Tom and Sandra Simmons
60th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday September 7th, 2024
from 1-4 pm at the
Kinmount Community Centre

Please drop by for cake, refreshments and well wishes.

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580 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minden Animal Hospital
passionate about your pets' health

Dr. Jenn, owner of the Minden Animal Hospital, warmly welcomes a new associate Veterinarian to her team, Dr. Esperanza, alongside Dr Kate, longstanding associate Veterinarian of the Minden Animal Hospital.

Dr. Esperanza graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2022 and has since been practicing in small animal medicine. She is enthusiastic about preventative medicine and she is dedicated to providing high-quality, personalized care to every patient at Minden Animal Hospital. Dr Jenn and the rest of the MAH team thank their clients and patients for their patience as they have worked to recruit and relocate a much-needed Veterinarian into our community. The Minden Animal Hospital is proudly accepting new patients.

Please join us in welcoming Dr Esperanza into this beautiful community.

705-286-2919 4 Booth Street, Minden

650 OBITUARIES

Agnew, Meghann Louise
October 27, 1979 - August 19, 2024

After a long battle with cancer Meghann's family is heartbroken. At Meg's request, family and friends will gather together to remember the good times. Please join us for Meghann's Celebration of Life at the Lloyd Watson Centre, 2249 Loop Road in Wilberforce, Sunday September 22nd, 2024, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com

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650 OBITUARIES

Shirley Sisson
Resident of West Guilford

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital at the age of 86. Loving wife of Cleve Sisson who she has now been reunited with. Cherished mother of Janet, J'Nan, and Rod(Wendy). Predeceased by her son Dwight (Janet) as well as her sons-in-law Mike Yateman and David Bain. Shirley will also be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Thank you to our wonderful paramedics and to the Haliburton Hospital for her care.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Shirley's life will take place at a later date to be announced. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Shirley's memory may be made to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
BIG BAND:
Wilberforce to host CHAY music night ... page 3.

THIS WEEK
CHILDREN'S CHOIR:
Lauren McInnes has something to sing about ... page 5.

FEATURE
Cadillac Memories
Dick Holland's past is his present ... page 21.

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
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The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 Vol. 114, No. 29 • 32 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

Parents, kids scramble to cope with bus changes

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Tracy Cole considers herself lucky.

Unlike many parents who are still scrambling to figure out how to get their children to school now that Haliburton's school board no longer offers door-to-door bus service, Cole has found a solution for her six-year-old daughter.

At first she thought she'd have to try to get her hours at work reduced so she could drive her daughter back and forth.

Though it would've been financially difficult, she was willing to trade the cut in weekly pay for the peace of mind knowing her daughter wasn't left on her own to get to and from school.

Then she found a babysitter just two doors away from Archie Stouffer Elementary School where she can drop off her daughter in the mornings on her way to work in Haliburton and pick her up again in the evenings on the way home.

It makes for a long day for the Grade 1 student — nearly 11 hours away from home — but at least her mother knows she is safe, says Cole.

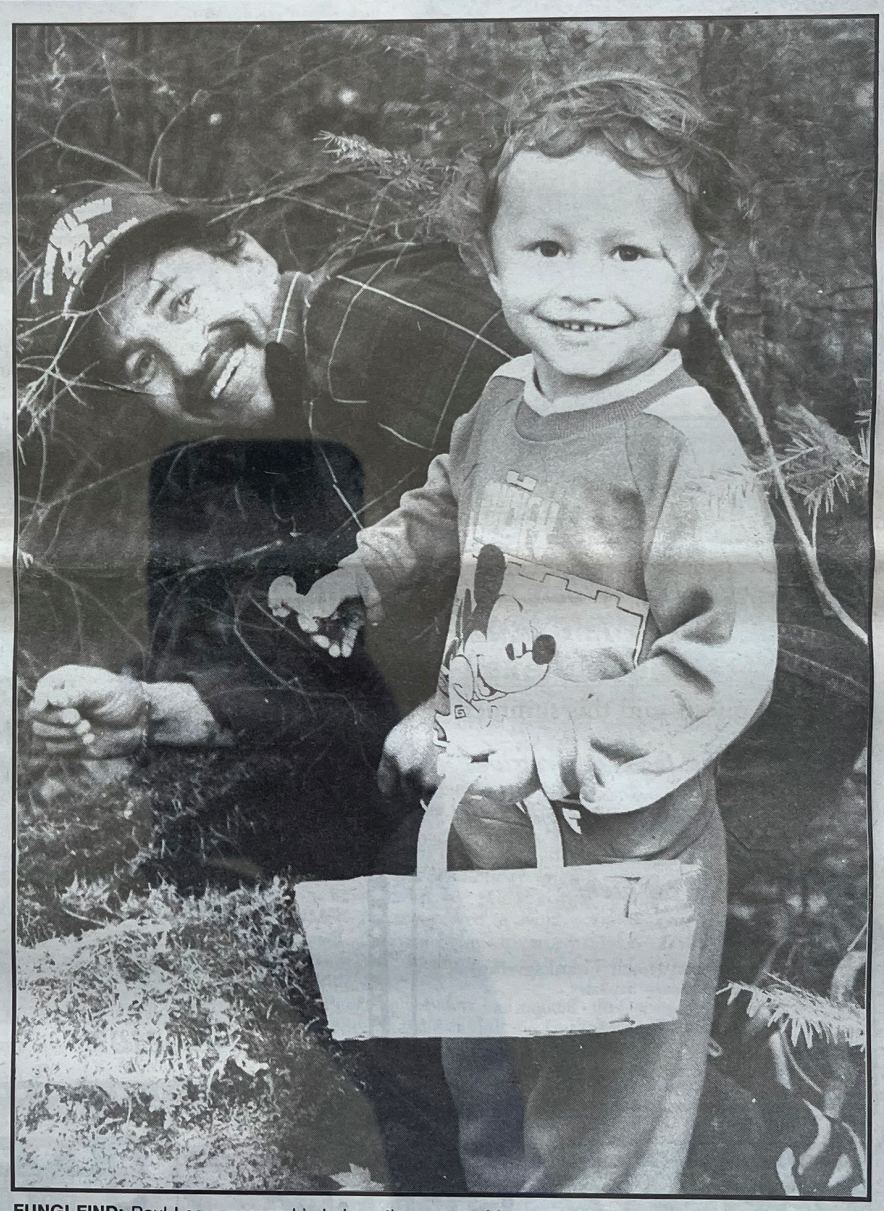
"I was fortunate," says the North Water Street resident. "I was able to find someone to babysit. But what about the other parents?"

A week into the school year and a week into the board's new policy, which requires students of all ages to walk up to two kilometres (1.2 miles) to school or to meet their buses, other parents are making do in different ways — driving their kids all the way to school, giving them lifts to the pick-up point, walking with them, sending them off alone and, in Al and Cindy Gurr's case, hiring a lawyer.

The Gurrs, who are the only family living on an isolated road off Trapper's Trail, are hoping their lawyer may be able to find some legality to force the board to go back to picking up children at the ends of their driveways.

"He's checking to see whether the board has the right to cut back bus service after it's already been established," said Al Gurr, who says he made sure school bus service was available to his property before buying it.

See 2K WALK page 7



FUNGI FIND: Paul Leger passes his helper, three-year-old son, Teddy, one of several mushrooms he found in the woods at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve Saturday morning during a mushroom walk led by the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists.

Bruce Turner photo
Stuart Baker

Former Haliburton education director dies

by JODY LINDBECK
Staff Reporter

Local schools will be closed Wednesday afternoon so that teachers can attend the funeral of a former director of education for Haliburton County.

Stuart Wesley Baker died Sunday morning at Haliburton Hospital after a long battle with cancer. He was 62.

The son of the late Wes and Kitty (nee Curry), Mr. Baker completed his education in Haliburton before attending Toronto Teachers' College.

He obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Waterloo Lutheran University and later completed a Master of Education at Queen's University, with a Supervisory Officer's Certificate awarded by the Ministry of Education.

His career in education included 35 years' teaching experience, all in Haliburton County.

After four years as a classroom teacher, Mr. Baker spent the next 12 years as a teacher and principal of Lakeview School, followed by 12 years as principal of Archie Stouffer Elementary School at Minden. He also spent a year on exchange as vice-principal of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

Mr. Baker was Director of Education for six years, taking over the role in 1984 after the retirement of J. Douglas Hodgson.

During his career in education, Mr. Baker played a major

See STUART BAKER page 6

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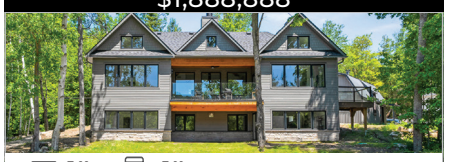

5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40548273

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,850,000

5 X BED | 4X BATH | MLS# 40598632

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$1,350,000

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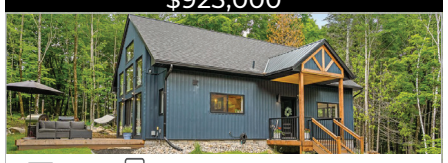
NEW LISTING

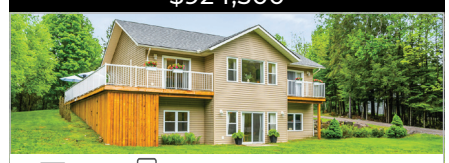
5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40638562

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000



3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40620591

HALIBURTON-BY-THE-LAKE
$924,500



3X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40586358

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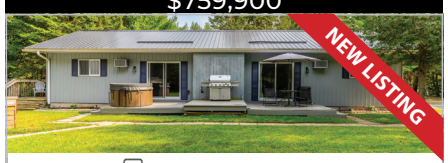

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$750,000

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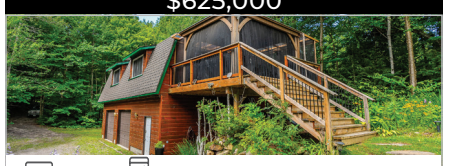

2 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40634507

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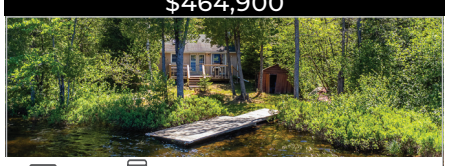

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40597519

CRANBERRY LAKE
$455,000

MLS# 40635946

ESSON LAKE
$455,000

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40624243

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$435,000

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CHANDLER POINT
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FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

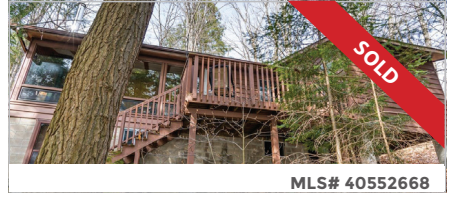
MLS# 40578158

MINDEN AREA
$750,000

SOLD

MLS# 40624237

KENNISIS LAKE
$830,000



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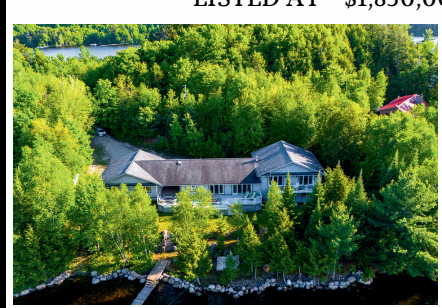

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